

## THE WAGE INCREASES OF 1906.

A HUNDRED MILLIONS BY THE RAILROADS ALONE.

The Great Industrial Corporations Add as Much or More—Many Christmas Bonuses—Several Savings Banks Add 1-2 Per Cent, to the Interest Rate.

A glance at the financial records in the daily newspapers for the last two months furnishes pretty good evidence that yesterday was a good Christmas for the average American workman.

There has in the last quarter of a year been added to the wages of railroad employees alone about \$100,000,000. Nearly all the roads in the East have announced increases of from 5 to 10 per cent. In the wages of most of their employees, and many of the lines in the West and South have followed suit.

The industrial corporations have kept pace with the increases made by the carriers, the advances in the steel and textile industries being especially noticeable. The wages paid by the textile mills in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, for instance, are the highest ever paid in the industry, and at the same time the statements of the companies show the largest distribution of dividends in recent years. The United States census for 1900 estimates the amount paid out in wages by manufacturers in that year at \$2,339,623,415. A 10 per cent. increase in wages on a basis of figures compiled six or seven years ago would bring the amount into the hundreds of millions.

One of the most important increases made in the last few weeks was that of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The officials of that road gave all of the employees on the system east and west of Pittsburgh who were receiving less than \$200 a month a raise of 10 per cent. This affects 185,000 men and involves the annual outlay of \$12,000,000. The same class of employees got an advance of 10 per cent. in 1902, which makes an increase of 20 per cent. in four years. Besides this the company made a readjustment of salaries which affected 1,058 men and involved the expenditure of an additional \$30,733 a month, or \$368,796 a year.

The New York Central, the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, the Long Island and most of the other big Eastern roads followed the example of the Pennsylvania. The United States Steel Corporation announced its Christmas gift to employees an increase of 10 cents a day to all common laborers at the plants of the subsidiary companies. About 70,000 men are classed as general laborers in the corporation's employ. This increase came to the men unlooked for, and iron and steel men understood that it was a substantial recognition by the board of directors of the loyalty of the men through a year in which every department of the industry has been run at the maximum and under conditions that have taxed the powers of all hands from top to bottom. In the depression of the iron and steel trade in 1903 the corporation did not make any considerable reduction in wages.

Besides voting the increase, the directors of the United States Steel Corporation have made their usual offer to employees of allowing them to subscribe for the preferred stock of the corporation below the market quotation. This year the subscription price has been set at 100. Last year it was 110, and 12,256 employees took 24,000 shares. Among the other steel corporations which have done so the United States has done the Illinois Steel Company. The raise there affected 13,000 men and amounted to \$500,000 a year.

The Standard Oil Company is another of the big corporations which has made a general increase without being asked for it. From 5 to 10 per cent. has been added to the wages of all men employed in the refineries of the branch companies. About 35,000 men have been affected by the increase. The highest percentage of increase in the case of the Standard Oil Company goes to the lowest paid employees, the percentage decreasing in proportion to the person's salary.

The Consolidated Gas Company has added 10 per cent. to the pay of all its employees who are drawing less than \$2,000 a year. This affects 6,500 of the 8,000 men on the company's payroll. The increase will add \$200,000 a year to the fixed charges of the company.

Two big express companies, the Adams and the American, have made increases affecting a large percentage of their employees.

Many banks and trust companies have advanced their employees an increased share of the general prosperity. Most of these increases never come to the knowledge of the public, but they are made just the same. The Brooklyn branch of the State Bank in Brooklyn voted to its officers and employees who had seen ten years service a gratuity of 20 per cent. of their annual salaries and to those who had seen less than ten years service gratuities ranging in amount from 10 to 15 per cent. The directors of the Union Bank in Brooklyn gave their employees a dinner. At each man's plate was a fine new pocketbook with two weeks salary in it. August Belmont & Co. and many other downtown firms will give bonuses to their employees before the new year begins.

Among the employees of the Remington typewriter works at Ilion more than \$150,000 in gold was distributed yesterday as bonuses. About two hundred and seventy employees received money, averaging some \$50 each.

While the railroads and big corporations have been announcing increases, savings banks have been offering added inducements for deposits by raising the interest from 3 1/2 to 4 per cent. Among the New York banks that have done this are the Bowers Savings Bank, the Dry Dock Savings Bank, the Metropolitan Savings Bank, the Irving Savings Bank and the German Savings Bank.

## PLAIN NEW ELECTION LAW.

Missouri Democrats Want to Eliminate All Illiterate Voters.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 25.—Former Governor Lon V. Stephens, ex-Supreme Judge Williams of Booneville and other well known Democratic leaders are preparing to submit to the coming Missouri General Assembly a new election law designed to eliminate the illiterate voter.

It is proposed to repeal the present Australian ballot law in its entirety and enact instead a statute requiring that the names of all candidates of all parties shall appear on the ballot; that the voter shall be able to read and write and prove his educational qualifications whenever required by any of the judges of election. Under no circumstances shall the voter receive advice, information or instruction from an officer of election.

Such a law, Republicans say, would clearly be aimed at the negro voter, who would be disqualified in Democratic counties whenever it pleased the Democrats to reject his vote.

Gov. Stephens estimates there are 50,000 voters in Missouri who are unable to read and write. A majority of these, he acknowledges, are negroes, "but," he added, "the illiterate white as well as the black would feel in the same degree the effect of the new law."

## MYSTERIOUSLY SHOT.

Heming Found Himself a Target for a Man Who Sprang From a Doorway.

While David Heming, a cooper, 23 years old, of 80 Kent avenue, Williamsburg, was going along Wythe avenue near North Third street on his way home early yesterday morning a man jumped out from a doorway and without uttering a word began to shoot at him. The first bullet struck Heming in his left thigh and the second in his left leg. Two other shots went wild.

As Heming fell his assailant ran away, going along North Third street toward the East River. The injured man was removed to the Eastern District Hospital. He was unable to describe his assailant.

## The Hotel PATTERSON

59 West 46th St.,

through to

58 West 47th St.

With its new addition, just finished, appeals to those in quest of service, appointments and environments of the highest order.

## NO CHANCE FOR AN OLD THIEF.

SO SAYS A SOBBING MAN IN THE POLICE COURT.

Michael J. Ferguson, Arrested as a Vagrant, Protests That He Is Living an Honest Life—Says It's Hard to Get Work—Magistrate Crane Lets Him Go.

Magistrate Crane, sitting in the Tombs police court, yesterday said that not in all his years of experience as a Magistrate had he seen such a disreputable looking lot of prisoners as the two scores of men and women, charged for the most part with drunkenness and fighting, who were paraded before him. Three quarters of the motley group could have posed for victims of an explosion or other accident. They had blackened eyes, swollen and out of place, and their clothing was tattered and smeared from contact with the pavement and gutters from which they had been picked up.

The majority were discharged, but a few of the worst cases were held over.

"I'll hold them off the streets for Christmas," said the Magistrate. "They'll get a good dinner in the Tombs, anyhow." As the Magistrate finished with the last man in line Detective Sergeant M. J. Galvin of the Central Office came upstairs with a good looking man over 50. He was well clothed, his face ruddy and clear, his hair gray, turning white. He looked like a prosperous business man.

"He's only a pickpocket; a common thief; nothing in the story," Galvin said to the reporters. He told the same thing to the Magistrate a moment later when he arraigned his prisoner.

"He may be a common thief," said the Magistrate after he had heard the prisoner, Michael J. Ferguson, 55 years old, an ex-convict, tell his story, "but he's not a common man. I believe what he says."

"Your Honor," said Ferguson, "I have done nothing wrong. I'm not a vagrant. I always have money to pay my way, although I don't know it's hard enough to get it. I've been out of State prison now a little over three years and they've brought me in here time and time again. Yet they can't get anything on me." "I got him in the company of two thieves on the Chatham Square elevated station. He hangs around a place in Mott street, a resort for thieves," explained Galvin. "As God is my judge, your Honor," said Ferguson, "I was not with the men he says are thieves. I was alone on my way up town to see my mother and children. It's true that the place where I work is a saloon and that thieves hang around there. But what else can I do? Who'll give me, an old thief, work? It's in place like that. I've been out of State prison now a little over three years and they've brought me in here time and time again. Yet they can't get anything on me."

"Sergeant, I don't know of a better day on which to be merciful," said the Magistrate. "That man has been in the State House for a long time. He has a lot of gray hairs tell of his atonement. There are men on the police force who have done worse. I guess I've done some myself. Ferguson, I'll discharge you. Try once more."

Ferguson by this time was sobbing, and his tears were real.

## COL. PEPPER'S BODY SENT HOME.

Widow Goes With It Despite the Fact That She Was Ill on Monday.

The body of Col. James E. Pepper, who died on Monday afternoon at the Waldorf-Astoria, was shipped yesterday on the 4:55 P. M. train to Lexington, Ky., on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. Mrs. Pepper accompanied it.

Coroner Harburger was surprised when he learned that Mrs. Pepper had been able to undertake the trip. Owing to a defect in the death certificate the Coroner had been notified by the Board of Health to ascertain the causes of the Colonel's death. He held informal proceedings on Monday afternoon in the apartments of Col. Pepper in the hotel, and took the testimony of Dr. Richard Gibbons, the Colonel's physician, and of others in the hotel.

Dr. Gibbons said that Mrs. Pepper was in danger of a total collapse if questioned by the Coroner.

"Mrs. Pepper," he said, "is quite sick, probably with bronchial pneumonia. Her temperature was at 105 last night 10 3-5. She is now somewhat under the influence of morphine and atropine." On Monday the Coroner ordered the body removed to Plowright's undertaking rooms, at Fourth avenue and Twenty-sixth street, and notified Dr. O'Hanlon, the Coroner's physician, to hold an autopsy. The autopsy was held Monday night. Dr. O'Hanlon gave as his opinion that death was due to embolism, following a fracture of the neck of the right femur.

Coroner Harburger said that any further action in the case would be purely formal. Affidavits will be taken from the physicians attending Col. Pepper, from Dr. O'Hanlon and others connected with the case.

## CITY'S BEST WITNESS DEAD.

Lanette's Bullet Kills Man by Whom Philadelphia Hoped to Win Big Suit.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 25.—After lying unconscious for weeks, Frederick J. Schaffhauser, the most important witness for the prosecution in the \$5,000,000 filtration suit of the city of Philadelphia against Contractor James P. McNichol, Israel W. Durham and others, died last night in a hospital from wounds inflicted by a crazy man.

Mr. Schaffhauser was known as the "eat it up witness," because in his preliminary depositions he had sworn that former Chief of the Bureau of Filtration John W. Hill had told him to eat up an unexpected balance of \$25,000 on one of McNichol's contracts. It was mainly upon his testimony that the city expected to win its suit.

Mr. Schaffhauser died from a bullet wound in the brain, which was inflicted on November 9 by Frederick Hornberger, one of his fellow employees in the bureau of water, in which department Schaffhauser had the office of assistant engineer.

Hornberger shot Schaffhauser in one of the corridors of the city hall. The murderer charged his victim with running his wife and wrecking his home, but subsequent investigation proved Schaffhauser innocent of this charge and showed that Hornberger had leveled the same accusations at scores and that he was insane. He is now in the Philadelphia Insane Hospital.

## Stern Brothers

Dressmaking and Ladies' Tailoring Departments

For a Limited Period Orders

Will Be Accepted at

Special Concessions from Regular Prices.

Tailored Walking Gowns, of choice materials, \$52.00

(THIRD FLOOR)

## Trimmed Millinery

Clearing Sale of Winter Models

in Carriage, Evening and Street Hats,

At Greatly Reduced Prices.

(SECOND FLOOR)

West Twenty-third Street

## Lord &amp; Taylor

Opening of

Colored &amp; White Wash Fabrics.

Spring Season, 1907.

Wednesday the 26th December we will show for the coming season one of the most comprehensive lines of fine wash fabrics we have ever displayed.

Broadway and 20th St.; 5th Ave.; 19th St.

## CROSSED IN LOVE.

Lived Alone and Shot Himself on Christmas Morning.

Frederick Obauer, a pocketbook maker, 51 years old, who occupied two rooms, one a workshop, in an old two story frame house at 354 Keap street, Williamsburg, committed suicide early yesterday morning by stabbing himself eleven times in the region of the heart and once in the abdomen. He was a bachelor and from what he told friends he was disappointed in a love affair in Germany many years ago. When he came to America about thirty years ago he settled in that part of Williamsburg where he ended his life.

For a long time he lived like a recluse, never associating with anybody and simply carrying on work at his trade in a small shop. Lately he had suffered greatly from rheumatism and somebody prescribed a quack medicine. It seemed to make him worse and he became despondent. On Christmas eve he went among the few friends he had left and bade them good-by. He told them he felt as if he would never live to celebrate Christmas.

It was late on Monday night when he was heard to enter his abode. Shortly after 4 o'clock yesterday morning other inmates of the house heard groans and traced them to Obauer's rooms. They found him lying across his bed. He was conscious and feebly begged to be allowed to die. He was taken to the Eastern District Hospital, where he died.

Marines Back From Panama.

At the Panama steamship pier yesterday afternoon the steamship Colon from Colon landed a battalion of marines that had been on duty at Camp Elliott in the Canal Zone. There were four officers and 155 men glad to get back to the States.

A tug from the navy yard was awaiting them at the pier and took them to the marine barracks.

Major Charles G. Long, who was in command, will report to the marine commandant, Capt. C. B. Taylor will go to the barracks at Norfolk, Va.; at the expiration of a ten days leave of absence First Lieut. F. D. Kilgore will be assigned to the League Island Navy Yard, Second Lieut. J. A. Russell will go to the barracks at Washington and Second Lieut. Emile P. Moses will go to the barracks at Boston.



## OUR IMPROVED Croup Kettle

Constructed according to directions of an eminent physician

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them at the pier and took them to the marine barracks.

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ALL CARS TRANSFER TO  
**Bloomingdale's**  
LEXINGTON TO 3<sup>RD</sup> AVE. 59<sup>TH</sup> TO 60<sup>TH</sup> ST.

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Price Reductions Unprecedented On Furs, Women's Suits and Coats and Men's and Boys' Clothing,

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On Gold Watches \$20 and up.

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On Fine Bronzes and Ivories.

On Imported Leather Goods.

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On Fine Razor Sets up from \$8.

On Imported Clocks and Candelabra up from \$10.

On Imported Musical Instruments up from \$5.

On Shell Goods at \$4 and up.

On Fine Art Embroideries.

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Exhibition of Silks. Showing the new Spring weaves for 1907

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## James McCreery &amp; Co.

23rd Street.

34th Street.

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On Wednesday and Thursday

December the 26th and 27th.

Advance models of Spring Millinery will be on exhibition; and a variety of Hats suitable for California and the South.

## James McCreery &amp; Co.

23rd Street.

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## James McCreery &amp; Co.

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Commencing on January the 2nd

Orders will be executed at large concessions from usual prices.

Tailored Suits. 65.00; 75.00 and 80.00

Models exhibited from which these orders may be taken.

Imported Gowns considerably below former prices.

Thirty-fourth Street.

## James McCreery &amp; Co.

EMBROIDERIES. In Both Stores.

On Wednesday, December the 26th;

Sale of White Embroideries and Embroidered Batiste and Linen Robes.

23rd Street.

34th Street.

## B. Altman &amp; Co.

FIFTH AVENUE, THIRTY-FOURTH AND THIRTY-FIFTH STREETS

Commencing this day (Wednesday), December 26th,

will hold a sale of WHITE SILKS,

comprising over 20,000 yards at

58c., 65c., 78c., \$1.00 and \$1.28 per yard

The regular prices of which are 75c. to \$2.25

STORE WILL BE CLOSED DAILY AT SIX P. M.

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Are the Overcoat ends we make to measure at \$25. Satin lined, prices were \$30 to \$60.

Imported worsted Suits, \$25, reduced from \$30 and \$40.

Silk lined Full Dress Suits to measure \$40. Tuxedos \$35. We use imported Drape worsted and Peter Pan silk facing. Better style cannot be had at any price.

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FOR SALE.

REAL ESTATE—QUEENS BOROUGH.

FOR SALE.

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WITHIN 2 YEARS 300% PROFIT IS GUARANTEED

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